Your ongoing enrollment in this course indicates you have read this syllabus and accept its requirements and expectations.

**Course Description** | This course serves as an introduction to many of the major theoretical approaches that have developed in the past century. We will engage two introductory texts to literary and cultural theory, and we will read various theorists and critics whose work we will discuss at length. Through class discussions and several writing assignments, we will consider how these critical concepts apply to both literature and culture. Ultimately, students will gain a sense of the ongoing conversations within literary studies and consider which discourses are most relevant to their own critical interests and concerns.

**Access** | If you have concerns about access (physical, psychological, or learning) that you think may affect your ability to succeed in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to all classroom activities.

**Class Conduct** | Disruptions are unacceptable. Cell phones, pagers, mp3 players, or other noise-making items must be turned to silent before class begins. Never read or send text messages, answer calls, or check/write email/facebook/etc. during class. If I see you texting, checking email, listening to an mp3 player, etc., I will ask you to leave.

**Contacting Me** | Email is by far the best means for contacting me. However, be sure to check the syllabus or assignment descriptions before emailing me questions that may be answered by them. If I don’t respond to an email, it’s likely that the answer to your question can be found in the syllabus or assignment description. I also encourage you to talk with me during office hours (or by appointment) about ideas, drafts, questions, etc. I do not respond to emails sent on weekends or school holidays until the following business day; please allow me 24 hours to respond to weekday emails.


**Assignments** | Full and attentive reading of all assigned texts; participation in class discussion; reading journal; 2 essays (4-6 pages); final exam. **Percentage Breakdown:** Participation: 10%; Reading Journal: 10%; Application Essay: 30%; Comparison Essay: 30%; Final Exam: 20%.

**Assignment Policy** | Assignments are due at the beginning of class time on the date given in the syllabus unless otherwise notified. I do not accept late work. Anticipate conflicts and request extensions instead. If you must miss class when an assignment is due, please submit the assignment early (slip it under my office door or have a friend submit it for you). I do not accept assignments via email unless I have given you explicit permission to submit your assignments in that manner, and you must still submit a hard copy to me at the next class meeting.

**Academic Honesty** | Plagiarism is a form of cheating that is taken very seriously at the University of Oregon, as at all other institutions of higher learning. Plagiarism is passing off someone else’s ideas or words as your own, whether through direct copying or by not acknowledging (by citing sources) where the ideas came from. All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Student Judicial Affairs website: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx. Likewise, cheating on exams will not be tolerated. In a first case where plagiarism or cheating has been established, you will receive an “F”/0 points for the assignment; in any subsequent cases you will fail the course. All cheating will be reported to the university and will go on your student record. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.
## Schedule of Readings and Assignments

### Week 1
**T 10/1**  
Introduction to the Course

**R 10/3**  
*What is Theory? What questions does Theory seek to answer?*  
Reading: Culler, “Preface,” Ch. 1 “What is Theory,” Ch. 2 “What is Literature and Does it Matter?”  
Ch. 3 “Literature and Cultural Studies”

### Week 2
**T 10/8**  
Reading: Culler, Ch. 4 “Language, Meaning, and Interpretation,” Ch. 5 “Rhetoric, Poetics, and Poetry,”  
Ch. 6 “Narrative,” Ch. 7 “Performative Language,” Ch. 8 “Identity, Identification, and the Subject”

**R 10/10**  
*Liberal Humanism, Structuralism, and Narratology*  
Reading: Culler, Ch. 9 “Ethics and Aesthetics”; Barry, Ch. 1 “Theory before Theory—Liberal Humanism,” Ch. 2 “Structuralism,” Ch. 12 “Narratology”

### Week 3
**T 10/15**  
Brooks, “The Formalist Critics” (BB); de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics* (BB)

**R 10/17**  
*Post-structuralism and Deconstruction*  
Reading: Barry, Ch. 3 “Post-Structuralism and Deconstruction”; Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* (BB)

### Week 4
**T 10/22**  
Reading: Derrida, *Difference* (BB)

**R 10/24**  
*Psychoanalytic Criticism*  
Reading: Barry, Ch. 5 “Psychoanalytic Criticism” on Freud (92-103); Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* and “The Uncanny” (BB)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Feminist Theory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 11/19</td>
<td>Reading: Barry, Ch. 6 “Feminist Criticism”</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 11/21</td>
<td>Reading: Rubin, “The Traffic in Women” (BB); Gilbert and Gruber <em>The Madwoman in the Attic</em> (BB)</td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Gender Studies and Queer Theory</th>
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<tr>
<td>T 11/26</td>
<td>Reading: Barry, Ch. 7 “Lesbian/Gay Criticism”; Foucault “The History of Sexuality” (BB)</td>
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<td>R 11/28</td>
<td><strong>No Class: Thanksgiving</strong></td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>T 12/3</td>
<td>Reading: Sedgwick, “Queer and Now”; Bulter, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” (BB)</td>
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<td>R 12/5</td>
<td><strong>Final Review</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Comparison Essay Due</strong></td>
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*Finals*

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 2013 1:00 PM**